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ABSTRACT

This book frames the higher purposes of adult education in terms of worldview construction. Building on the work of Martin Heidegger, the first of the book's eight chapters defines worldview in two ways: as a vantage point in time and culture that conditions a person's experience of the world and as a person's understanding of the world. Chapter 2 reviews the work of Hans-Georg Gadamer on tradition and experience. Chapter 3 analyzes knowing and thinking. Chapter 4 describes understanding as the product of striving for intelligibility and meaning. The next chapter emphasizes the practical steps adult educators can take to establish discussion groups which explicitly address worldview construction. Chapter 6 argues that there is an ethical imperative for adults to examine their worldviews, if not in a group context then at least in moments of solitude. Chapter 7 proposes that theorists in the field of adult education have recognized the association between education and worldview construction without expressly using the phrase "worldview construction." The final chapter relates the ideas in the book to the author's previous work in the area of the theoretical foundations of adult education. References are listed at the end of each chapter. Subject and author indexes are appended. (YLB)

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